GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:314
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2007
GROWTH IN MINERAL EXPLORATION
Ola Shri Sis Ram

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth in mineral exploration has drastically declined during the past few years;

(b) if so, the factors responsible therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to boost the growth in mineral exploration in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA)

(a) to (c) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.314 REGARDING GROWTH IN MINERAL EXPLORATION ASKED BY S/SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR AND ADHIR CHOWDHURY FOR ANSWER ON 20TH MARCH, 2007.

(a), (b) & (c) : There has been a decline in the mineral exploration activity in the last few years. The main reason for this has been the shortage of manpower in the Geological Survey of India (GSI) due to which the mineral exploration programme could not be undertaken to the desired extent. The regulatory mechanism for the grant of mineral concessions has been another factor affecting the growth of mineral exploration in the private sector.

Government has embarked upon a programme of modernization and induction of state-of-the-art equipments in GSI. The human resources in GSI are also being strengthened through regular intake. Government is also considering to bring in the New Mineral Policy to boost mineral exploration in private sector.